

Swedish Diplomat Seized as Spy For Reds 15 Years, 5 of Them Here

STOCKHOLM, June 25 (AP) — A Swedish air force colonel, decorated by both the United States and France, has been arrested as a Soviet spy for the last 15 years—five of them spent as Swedish air attaché in Washington, the government disclosed today. It ordered two Russian diplomats expelled.

Angry Swedish reaction to what the government called the worst spy scandal in the history of traditionally neutral Sweden may force Soviet Premier Khrushchev to cancel a visit to this country for the second time in two years.

Police said Col. Stig Erik Wennerstrom, 57, was arrested last Friday and admitted selling military secrets of Sweden and other countries to the Kremlin. The other countries were not identified but presumably included the United States, which had honored him with its Legion of Merit.

Well-informed sources in Stockholm reported that NATO staffs in Paris and Washington had cancelled all leaves pending an investigation into whether Wennerstrom had given away any important secrets about NATO defense.

The newspaper Dagens Nyheter said Wennerstrom had delivered Allied as well as Swedish defense secrets to the Soviet Embassy here and had received payoffs which, the newspaper said, made him one of the best-paid Russian spies uncovered so far.

The State Department said in Washington that Sweden notified the United States in advance of the public disclosure of Wennerstrom's case. However, the Department had no official comment on his activities while serving as air attaché in Washington from 1952 to 1957.

Swedish Foreign Minister Torsten Nilsson protested sharply to the Soviet Embassy about violations of Swedish and international law and ordered the expulsion of Wennerstrom's two alleged Soviet military advisers, Colonel George

Underlining the seriousness with which it viewed the affair, the government issued a communique which said it would watch developments carefully and take the necessary measures as soon as more details are uncovered.

This suggested more disclosures that would embarrass the

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Soviet Union and force reconsideration of Khrushchev's plan to visit Scandinavia next spring.

Wennerstrom was acting as special disarmament adviser to the Swedish Foreign Ministry when police picked him up.

A police statement said Wennerstrom confessed he photographed secret documents with a miniature camera and personally handed over the films to the Russians. He faces a maximum penalty of life imprisonment if brought to trial on spy charges.

Wennerstrom was first in the headlines in 1951 when he was charged with spying for the Soviet Union in Washington with Senate page boy, Huw Williams, of Falls Church, Va.

According to the latest information here, Williams and the other now are living in Sweden.

Wennerstrom was first commissioned as a Navy officer but in 1936 switched to the air force.

He served on the air force staff in Stockholm and then was sent to Moscow as assistant air attaché. He was in Moscow when the Nazis invaded Russia in 1941 but returned to Stockholm soon afterward.

According to the police statement, Wennerstrom apparently became involved with the Russians during his second tour in Moscow, 1949-1952, as air attaché.

From this post he went to Washington as air attaché.